
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: QUALITY COUNTS 2002: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
DATE: 1/4/2002
CC: MAYO
SEWELL

Education Week is releasing its Quality Counts edition on Monday, January 7. We have an embargoed copy. The edition focuses on early care and education policies in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. You may receive some media inquiries regarding Mississippi's ranking. I've notified Lee Ann and John of this. Mississippi's report card included the following:

Student Achievement (NAEP)

4 th graders proficient or above in math (2000)	9%
8 th graders proficient or above in math (2000)	8%
4 th graders proficient or above in science (2000)	14%
8 th graders proficient or above in science (2000)	15%
4 th graders proficient or above in reading (1998)	18%
8 th graders proficient or above in reading (1998)	19%
8 th graders proficient or above in writing (1998)	11%

Standards and Accountability	D+
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Improving Teacher Quality	C
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School Climate	(Not graded this year)
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Resources

Adequacy	D+
Equity	C

Comment: This cash-poor state doesn't spend any of its own money on early-childhood education, aside from that required to access federal funds. In 2001, legislators approved teacher-pay raises instead of piloting pre-kindergarten programs. The adequacy of pay and training for preschool teachers is also an issue. In 2000, the state approved a new license for preschool and kindergarten teachers only. For older students, the state is phasing in end-of-course tests for graduation, beginning with the Class of 2003. A new accountability system will rate schools starting in fall 2003.